

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, and 10, and add new Claim 11, as indicated below.

The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (currently amended) A remote operation method of an information processing apparatus connected to an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus via a network. ~~An authentication method of an image processing system in which a host computer, an authentication apparatus, and an image processing apparatus are connected to a network, the method comprising:~~

an accessing step of accessing the image processing apparatus; ~~a first request step of, at the host computer, issuing a request for authentication to the image processing apparatus when the host computer remotely operates the image processing apparatus;~~

a reception step of, at the host computer, receiving from the image processing apparatus data for specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, as a response to the accessing in the accessing step; ~~in response to the request in the first request step;~~

a second request step of, at the host computer, issuing a request for the authentication process to the authentication apparatus based on the data received transmitted in the reception transmission step in a case where an instruction to operate remotely the image processing apparatus is input by a user, wherein the authentication process is to authenticate an operation level of the remote operation performed by the information processing apparatus; ~~host~~

~~computer,~~ and

a remote operation step of, ~~at the host computer,~~ upon remotely operating the image processing apparatus, performing an executable kind of remote operation specified by in accordance with the operation level authenticated in the authentication process.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data received in the reception step includes add-on software, and the information processing apparatus ~~host computer~~ requests the authentication apparatus to effect execution of the authentication process by the add-on software.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the requested authentication process is to be performed using codes transmitted in the ~~second~~ request step and a dictionary that defines operation levels with respect to the image processing apparatus.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the dictionary is contained in the authentication apparatus on the network.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the data is an address of the authentication apparatus on the network.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the remote operation is at least one of: a download operation, a browsing operation, a printing operation, and

a transfer operation.

7. (currently amended) An image processing system comprising:

a host computer, an authentication apparatus, and an image processing apparatus connected to a network,

wherein the host computer is configured to access ~~issue a first request for authentication to the image processing apparatus, when the host computer remotely operates the image processing apparatus;~~

wherein the image processing apparatus is configured to transmit data for specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, to the host computer, in response to the access from the information processing apparatus, first request;

wherein the host computer is configured to issue a ~~second~~ request for the authentication process to the authentication apparatus based on the data transmitted by the image processing apparatus_{[[;]]} in a case where an instruction to operate remotely the image processing apparatus is input by a user,

wherein the authentication apparatus is configured to authenticate an operation level of the remote operation performed by the host computer, in response to the ~~second~~ request_{[[;]]} and

wherein the host computer is configured to, upon remotely operating ~~operate~~ the image processing apparatus, performing an executable kind of remote operation specified by in accordance with the operation level authenticated by the authentication apparatus.

8. and 9. (cancelled).

10. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing recording a program for causing a computer to execute a remote operation method of an information processing apparatus connected to an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus via a network, ~~an authentication method of an image processing system in which a host computer and an image processing apparatus are connected to a network~~, the method comprising:

an accessing step of accessing the image processing apparatus; ~~a first request step of, at the host computer, issuing a request for authentication to the image processing apparatus when the host computer remotely operates the image processing apparatus;~~

~~a reception step of, at the host computer, receiving from the image processing apparatus data for specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, as a response to the accessing in the accessing step; in response to the request in the first request step;~~

~~a second request step of, at the host computer, issuing a request for the authentication process to the authentication apparatus based on the data received ~~transmitted~~ in the ~~transmission~~ reception step in a case where an instruction to operate remotely the image processing apparatus is input by a user~~, wherein the authentication process is to authenticate an operation level of the remote operation performed by the information processing apparatus; ~~host computer;~~ and

~~a remote operation step of, at the host computer, upon remotely operating the~~

image processing apparatus, performing an executable kind of remote operation specified by in
~~accordance with~~ the operation level authenticated in the authentication process.

11. (new) An information processing apparatus connected to an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus via a network, the apparatus comprising:

an accessing unit configured to access the image processing apparatus;

a reception unit configured to receive data from the image processing apparatus for specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, as a response to an accessing by the accessing unit;

a request unit configured to issue a request for the authentication process to the authentication apparatus based on the data received by the reception unit in a case where an instruction to operate remotely the image processing apparatus is input by a user, wherein the authentication process is to authenticate an operation level of the remote operation performed by the information processing apparatus;

a remote operation unit configured to, upon remotely operating the image processing apparatus, perform an executable kind of remote operation specified by the operation level authenticated in the authentication process.